

Name of Lead Agency	County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Agency, Alcohol and Drug Program
Location	Santa Cruz, CA
Title of Project	Treatment Alliance for Safe Children
Program Option	RPG 5-Year Grant; \$500,000 annually
Geographic Area and Congressional District Served	Central Coast of Santa Cruz Congressional District 17
Brief Program Description	<p>The Treatment Alliance for Safe Children (TASC) project was a collaboration between Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency's Alcohol and Drug Program, Human Services Department's Family &amp; Children's Services (Child Welfare Services), the Superior Court, and a network of community based service providers. TASC served families who resided in all regions of Santa Cruz County; and served an average of 81 adult clients, 112 children and 71 families a year.</p> <p>The Family Preservation Court (FPC), the central program in the TASC project, was a highly successful voluntary treatment court dedicated to assisting parents in addressing their substance abuse issues to increase the likelihood of either reunification with their children or to prevent removal of their children due to abuse and neglect. The Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) enabled the County to enhance and expand this original "Dependency Drug Court" to provide a continuum of intensive case management and individually tailored, culturally competent treatment and ancillary services.</p>
Target Population	<p><b>The project targeted:</b></p> <p>Families that met the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families residing in Santa Cruz County, California with methamphetamine or other drug abuse issues</li> <li>• Families who volunteer to participate in the Family Preservation Court program</li> <li>• Families with a child in out-of-home placement (Family Reunification) or families with court-ordered in-home placement (Family Maintenance)</li> <li>• Families that have a child age 12 or under</li> <li>• Parent needs a placement of Level II.1 (Intensive Outpatient Treatment) or higher, based on a comprehensive substance use assessment and application of American Society of Addiction Medicine patient placement criteria</li> </ul>

<b>Participants Served</b>	<p>Children: 293</p> <p>Adults: 219</p> <p>Families: 189</p>
<b>Major Goals</b>	<p><b>Major program goals included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Expanded and Enhanced Dependency Drug Court</li> <li>• Improve Child Outcomes</li> <li>• Improve Adult and Family/Relationship Outcomes</li> <li>• Improve Regional Partnerships and Service Capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Key Major Program Services</b>	<p><b>Case Management and In-Home Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive Case Management</li> <li>• Family Group Decision Making/Family Case Conferencing</li> <li>• Home Visits</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Therapy/Counseling</b></p> <p><b>Mental Health and Trauma Services for Adults</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health Services</li> <li>• Trauma-Informed Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive Outpatient – Matrix Model</li> <li>• Non-Intensive Outpatient or Other Step-Down</li> <li>• Aftercare/Continuing Care/Recovery Community Support Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Specialized Outreach, Engagement and Retention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive Behavioral Strategies - Motivational interviewing</li> <li>• Co-location of Staff</li> <li>• Peer/Parent Mentor</li> </ul> <p><b>Children’s Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Intervention and Developmental Services</li> <li>• Mental Health Counseling – Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Treatment Drug Court/Dependency Drug Court</b></p>
<b>Partner Agencies and Organizations</b>	<p><b>Child Welfare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional/County Child Welfare</li> </ul> <p><b>Substance Abuse</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional/County Substance Abuse Agency</li> <li>• Substance Abuse Treatment Agency</li> </ul> <p><b>Courts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Treatment Drug Court (FTDC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mental Health Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional/County Mental Health Agency</li> <li>• Mental Health Service Provider</li> </ul> <p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting Education/Services Provider</li> </ul> <p><b>Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State/County Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Welfare Office</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Community and Child and Family Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Violence Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Evaluation and Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation (University-Affiliated or Other)</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation Design and Comparison Group Type</b>	<p>Quasi-experimental</p> <p>Historical, Matched Population-Level</p>
<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<p><b>Safety</b></p> <p>The majority of children (84.5%) did not experience an occurrence of child maltreatment after enrollment in program services.</p> <p><b>Permanency</b></p> <p>Approximately three-quarters of the children in the home at time of enrollment remained in the home at case closure.</p> <p>The median length of stay in foster care for those reunified was significantly shorter for TASC (10.8 months) than comparison children (14.3 months).</p> <p><b>Recovery</b></p> <p>A total of 232 TASC (97.9%) and 23 comparison (95.8%) adults were admitted to substance abuse treatment.</p> <p>The median<sup>1</sup> length of stay in treatment for those that completed treatment</p>

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<sup>1</sup> The *median* number of days is reported here, in contrast to the *mean*, as the median is considered a better measure of the typical length of stay for adults in the treatment sample, especially since the sample size for treatment discharges is small. Because the

	<p>was significantly longer for TASC (364.0 median days or 12.0 months) than comparison adults (124.0 median days or 4.1 months).</p> <p><b>Well-Being</b></p> <p>Six children were born to TASC mothers while they were enrolled in the program and for all of the children no substances were detected at birth.</p> <p>Nearly all of the adults who needed received continuing care services (96.4%), parenting services (94.9%), dental services (87.6%), domestic violence services (87.3%), employment services (83.0%) and child care services (80.0%). Approximately three-quarters of the adults who needed received primary medical care (76.4%), transportation services (76.1%) and mental health services (71.8%).</p>
<b>Sustainability Status</b>	<p>The grantee reports serving fewer participants post-grant funding and a portion of the funding Child Welfare allocated for treatment of non-FPC clients is currently being used to help support the program. CalWORKs funding and California realignment funds that were allocated for the original dependency drug court are also being used.</p>

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*mean* is the arithmetic average of the entire range of possible values, it tends to be more sensitive to and affected by outliers, particularly very high values.